

PINOT NOIR

showing only a bit of mute background fruit in the nose, this weighty, reasonably rich Pinot begins on a more favorable note in the mouth. Its momentarily likeable fruit flavors are quickly challenged by very forceful acidity, however, and lingering sourness sadly becomes the most lasting and memorable aspect of the wine.

   \$13.00

SEGHESSIO WINERY 1989 Sonoma County
Pleasant, light cherryish scents show nuances of cinnamon bark, earth and leather while the flavors offer the same focus on cherry fruit but with a bit more sweet oak on display. Medium-bodied and supple, the wine is moderately fruity and will be enjoyable over the next two to three years.

   \$9.00




ROBERT SINSKEY VYDS 1990 Los Carneros Napa Valley. Fairly rich in oak with youthfully fruity, ripe black cherry smells comfortably in tow, the nose still shows a bit of baby fat in background suggestions of grapiness. All Pinot Noir in its supple mouthfeel and balanced by moderate tannins and slightly pushy acidity, the wine exhibits good depth to its ripe, well-oaked flavors but is very much in need of additional bottle aging to allow its somewhat narrow flavors to gain a measure of range to match their richness.

   \$18.00

SOKOL BLOSSER Redland 1989 Yamhill County Oregon. Oak gets the nod over fruit in light aromas where hints of nutmeg, cinnamon and vanilla combine with a subtle note of dried flowers. The primacy of oak is very much confirmed in mouth as this medium-bodied wine finds sweet and creamy spice notes set against somewhat narrowly defined cherryish fruit. Not surprisingly, it is oak that takes the lead in the finish as well.

   \$20.00

SOQUEL VINEYARDS 1990 Santa Cruz Mountains
Aggressive smells of burnt wood and earth take the early lead over ripe, but ill-defined fruit in the nose, and the very firm, acid-laced flavors find the same, forthright wood aspect well ahead of thin, understated fruit. By its tough, dry finish, the wine has shed any sense of fruit, and, in its stead, tart acidity and lingering oak stand alone.

   \$18.00

STATON HILLS VINEYARD 1988 Oregon
Sweet oak works with moderate success to give dimension and interest to the clean, somewhat quiet aromas and direct, cherryish flavors of this medium-bodied wine. Slightly firm in balance, it is relatively low in tannin, and while needing no more than a few years to reach its peak, it will prove attractive even now with herb-seasoned veal chops.

   \$15.00



STONESTREET

STONESTREET VYD 1990 Russian River Vly
A wine of great intensity, it at once combines ripe and multi-layered fruit smelling of black cherries, currants and ripe plums with abundant, but harmonious and enriching scents of sweet and toasty oak. Similarly, on the palate, it is only the outgoing fruit that keeps the more than generous oak in check, and, in that balance of richness and fruit supported by medium tannins, the wine promises to gain in attractiveness for years to come if left to age quietly in some dark and sacred corner.

   \$24.00

RODNEY STRONG VYDS 1990 Russian River Vly River East Vineyard. Plump, rich, nicely ripened varietal fruit is the central theme of both the oak-sweetened aromas and lush flavors of this immediately enjoyable Pinot. Soft and supple with a nearly velvety feel on the palate, it has a good sense of body and a lingering, low-tannin finish that is well-appointed in fruit. Ready now, it show hold well for another three or four years.

   \$14.00

TOPOLOS/RUSSIAN RIVER 1990 Russian River Vly
Odd notes of mint and pine add a shrill, high-toned element to the ripe black cherry aromas, and, on the palate, seemingly high acidity brings a sour, tart-edged character into the mix. Bordering on the unpleasant but never quite crossing the line into unacceptability, this one nonetheless has not much charm in its kit bag.

   \$10.00

TRUCHARD VYDS 1990 Napa Valley-Carneros
Sweet oak leaps to the fore in the initial aromas here, yet, with a bit of air, the nose unfolds to reveal ripe-cherry fruitiness. Ample fruit is confirmed in the mouth, as the wine marries cherry-like qualities and rich oak in its lively flavors. Very well-balanced and long on the palate, the wine argues for keeping and promises to improve.

   \$18.00

TRUCHARD VYDS 1989 Napa Valley-Carneros
While abundant oak in the nose, flavor and finish of this bottling is hard to ignore, it is joined by plenty of ripe, well-formed, cherry-like fruit at most every point. Surprisingly generous given the difficult nature of the vintage, the wine is still on the rough and ragged-side with a bit of tannin and acidity hardness pointing up the need for a few years of age. Try it again in three or four years.

   \$18.00